

*B1* 43. (Twice amended) A method for treating hepatitis C viral infection

*B1* comprising the administration to an animal in need of treatment a clinically effective amount of the composition of claim 42.

*B2* 45. (Amended) The composition of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid

molecule comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

*B3* 48. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a purified

and isolated nucleic acid molecule, said nucleic acid molecule encoding a human hepatitis C virus having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, and wherein a portion of said nucleic acid molecule which encodes the structural region of hepatitis C virus has been replaced with a portion of a nucleic acid molecule of a different hepatitis C virus strain that encodes the corresponding structural region.

*B4* 51. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a purified

and isolated nucleic acid molecule, said nucleic acid molecule encoding a human hepatitis C virus having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, and wherein a portion of the nucleic acid molecule which encodes at least one HCV protein has been replaced with a portion of the genome of another hepatitis C virus strain which encodes the corresponding HCV protein.

52. (Amended) The composition of claim 51, wherein the HCV protein is selected from the group consisting of: NS3 protease, E1 protein, E2 protein and NS4 protein.

53. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a purified and isolated nucleic acid molecule, said nucleic acid molecule encoding a human hepatitis C virus having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein a portion of the